



## Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

**For Immediate Release**

**September 12, 2007**

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**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

***For Thursday, September 13th***

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### **Rep. Shuler to Announce \$200,000 Federal Grant to MARC**

**Washington, D.C.** – Representative Heath Shuler will be in Haywood County tomorrow, September 13<sup>th</sup>, to officially announce a \$200,000 federal grant to the Marketing Association for Rehabilitation Centers (MARC), which was secured through the Appalachian Regional Commission.

The federal grant will be used to support the formation of MARC's Custom Medical Products manufacturing initiative. This program will create or retain 250 jobs, primarily for people with disabilities, in the 17 westernmost counties of North Carolina while also creating a manufacturing platform for small town rural entrepreneurial development.

**What:** Presentation of a \$200,000 federal grant through the Appalachian Regional Commission to the MARC.

**Who:** Representative Heath Shuler; Noel Watts, Executive Director and CEO, MARC Inc.; Tom O'Brien, President, Industrial Opportunities Inc.; Neal Bebbler, President of Polk Vocational Services, Inc; Nancy Stricker, President and CEO of Transylvania Vocational Services, Inc.; Steve Early, President of Foothills Industries, Inc.; Darrell Fox, President Webster Enterprises, Inc.; Jeff Ledford, MARC Custom Medical Products Project Manager; John Duckett, VP Marketing and Sales, Haywood Vocational Opportunities, Inc.; Whitey Medford, Director of Manufacturing Operations, Haywood Vocational Opportunities, Inc.

**When:** 9:30 a.m., Thursday, September 13, 2007

**Where:** Haywood Vocational Opportunities  
172 Riverbend St.  
Waynesville, NC

**Note:** MARC Inc. is comprised of six distinct manufacturing facilities. With more than 310,000 square feet and an employee base of over 800, MARC ranks as one of the largest industrial concerns in western North Carolina. All six facilities are within two hours of each other, and each provides services and support to fellow MARC members.

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